

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-06 ISO-00 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /082 W  
----- 067971

R 071240Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7364

INFO AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY KABUL

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USLO PEKING

AMCONSUL BOMBAY

AMCONSUL MADRAS

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

CINCPAC HONOLULU

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 3242

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, CH, IN

SUBJECT: SINO-INDIAN RELATIONS

1. THE INDIAN GOVERNMENT HAS REPLIED IN THE FOLLOWING WAY TO  
QUESTIONS FORMALLY ASKED IN PARLIAMENT AS TO WHETHER THE PRC  
"MADE ANY FRESH APPROACH DURING THE TIME" OF THE TABLE TENNIS  
TOURNAMENT "WITH A VIEW TO NORMALIZE RELATIONS WITH INDIA,"  
WHETHER "THE PRESS REPORT TO THIS EFFECT HAD BEEN BROUGHT TO  
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THE NOTICE OF THE GOVERNMENT," AND WHAT THE GOI'S REACTION IS.

RESPONDING IN THE MARCH 6 LIK SABHA SESSION, DEPUTY EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER DAS CONFINED HIMSELF TO TWO PREPARED SENTENCES: "THE GOVERNMENT HAVE SEEN THE REPORTS IN THE PRESS OF STATEMENTS MADE IN REPLY TO QUESTIONS PUT TO THE LEADER OF THE CHINESE DELEGATION TO THE WORLD TABLE TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIP IN CALCUTTA. NO FRESH APPROACH HAS BEEN MADE TO THE GOVERNEMENT.

2. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH THE GOI WOULD PROBABLY IN NO EVENT SIGNAL AN IMPENDING CHANGE FOR THE BETTER IN ITS ATTITUDE TOWARDS THE PRC GOVERNMENT IN A REPLY TO A PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION, DAS' RESPONSE SEEMS PARTICULARLY BLOODLESS. AT THE LEAST IT SEEMS AN EFFORT TO DAMPEN PRESS AND PUBLIC SPECULATION HERE ABOUT A POSSIBLE EARLY IMPROVEMENT IN THOSE RELATIONS. THE UPPER REACHES OF THIS GOVERNMENT ARE PROBABLY STILL WEIGHING VICE PREMIER CHEN'S CALCUTTA REMARKS, AND AWAITING FURTHER STATEMENTS FROM PRC SPOKESMEN AND MEDIA BEFORE DECIDING WHETHER ANY RESPONSE IS APPROPRIATE AT THIS TIME, AND WHAT FORM IT SHOULD TAKE.

3. THE OFFICER IN THE PN'S SECRETARIAT RESPONSIBLE FOR DEFENSE AND FOREIGN POLICY AFFAIRS TOLD AN EMBOFF MARCH 7 THAT THE GOI REALLY DID NOT THINK THE CHINESE HAD INDICATED ANYTHING NEW TO THE INDIANS THUS FAR, THAT PRIVATE CHANNELS EXISTED IF THE CHINESE WANTED TO INITIATE ANY SUBSTANTIVE DIALOGUE, AND THAT THE INDIANS DID NOT SEE THE DESIRABILITY OF CONDUCTING THEIR DIPLOMACY ON A STAGE.

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## Message Attributes

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